

IN THE CLAIMS:

8 [[33]]. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively precipitating arsenic from a solution containing copper, ferric iron and ferrous iron whilst minimising copper losses which includes the steps of:

- (a) introducing an acidic solution containing arsenic(V), copper, ferric iron and ferrous iron in succession into each of a series of continuously stirred tank reactors;
- (b) adjusting the pH of the solution in each of said tank reactors and adding air to the solution to oxidise a portion of the ferrous iron to ferric iron and heating the solution to an elevated temperature to increase the rate of ferric arsenate precipitation and to minimise copper co-precipitation;
- (c) recycling a portion of selectively precipitated ferric arsenate compounds exiting a final tank in the series to a first tank in the series;
- (d) seeding the solution with ferric arsenate compounds to provide seeds for enhanced crystalline formation; and
- (e) maintaining the pH of the solution in a second tank in the series at a pH of about 1.5 and selectively precipitating ferric arsenate compounds from the seeded aqueous solution with a first calcium-containing neutralising agent; and
- (f) maintaining the pH of the solution in a third tank in the series at a pH of about 1.9 and selectively precipitating ferric arsenate compounds from the solution with a second calcium-containing neutralising agent.

9 [[34]]. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[33]] 8 wherein the molar ratio of iron to arsenic of the solution is at least 1.

10 [[35]]. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[33]] 8 wherein the elevated temperature in step (b) is above 60°C and below 100°C.

11 [[36]]. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[33]] 8 wherein steps (a) through (e) are conducted at atmospheric pressure.

12 [[37]]. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[33]] 8 wherein the first neutralising agent used in step (e) is limestone.

13 [[38]]. (Canceled)

14 [[39]]. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[38]] 8 wherein the second neutralising agent is limestone.